

after Captain James had “marched them around the yard [of the armory] about eight times” after his request to leave the armory and participate had been denied by Captain James.¹⁸

Waddell’s column of men marched east on Market and turned onto Seventh Street, white residents in homes they passed viewed the crowd with mixed emotions even as husbands and sons joined the march from their porches. William Parsley wrote to his sister-in-law in New York that her mother broke into a “fit of hysterics sufficiently violent to alarm me” when the armed group of men led by Waddell marched by their house but that she soon was calmed enough for him to join the procession. Furthermore, his young daughter, Mannie, “distinguished herself” as she joined the procession from the sidewalk for a short distance while walking towards her grandparent’s home at 619 Orange Street. Parsley recalled that she enjoyed the walk but that his wife and mother were not so charmed by the girl’s activities.¹⁹

Although Waddell’s march took the men en route to the press through affluent neighborhoods on Market Street, once they turned onto Seventh and passed Orange Street, the neighborhood became distinctly different, occupied almost entirely by blacks who watched the procession from within their homes and other concealed locations.²⁰ Chief of Police John R. Melton observed the procession and recalled that it took about an hour for the 1,000 to 1,500 men to pass.²¹ The press occupied a building called Love and Charity Hall and was in the heart of a

black neighborhood near the corner of Seventh and Nun Streets.²²

Since they were in what could be assumed to be hostile territory, and given the fact that armed groups of black men had clustered around the press in August as a defensive measure after threats were first made against Manly and the paper, the white paramilitary organization sent out pickets, or guards, along the streets in the southern section of town. One participant later recalled that he was instructed by his ward captain to run a patrol on Church Street and later extended his patrols along Castle to Seventh in the early stages of the riot.²³

With his perimeter secured by the pickets and guard patrols, Waddell knocked on the door of the building wielding a Winchester rifle. The knock yielded no answer since Manly had been warned of the dangers to his life and property in advance by white reporter Thomas Clawson.²⁴ The men then forced the door open and poured

¹⁸ “Minutes of the Association of the WLI,” North Carolina Collection.

¹⁹ William Parsley to Sal [McLaurin], nd, Eccles Family Papers, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill.

²⁰ 1897 Wilmington Map, Hayumi Higuchi. A digital version of Higuchi’s map can be found in Chapter 8.

²¹ *Contested Election Case*, 364.

²² The hall, also called Free Love Lodge by Hayden, was operated by the Grand United Order of Love and Charity, first organized in 1878, and provided help for the poor, sick, and indigent through its association with St. Luke’s A.M.E. Zion Church. The building at Seventh and Nun Streets was newly constructed in 1897, and after its destruction in 1898, contributions from the white community reimbursed the organization for its losses. Construction commenced on a new hall in April 1899. Manly moved the printing press and *Record* offices to the building after he was evicted from his rented office space downtown in August. The property owner of the business office in downtown did not want Manly’s controversial business on his property. Reaves, *Strength Through Struggle*, 17-18.

²³ *Evening Dispatch* (Wilmington), August 25, 1898; F.A. Lord to Louis T. Moore, August 8, 1936, Louis T. Moore Collection, New Hanover County Public Library.

²⁴ Clawson, “Recollections and Memories” Louis T. Moore Collection, State Archives, North Carolina Office of Archives and History, Raleigh; McDuffie, “Politics in Wilmington,” 695, reports that a black man near the door failed to move out of the way fast enough and was shot in the neck. This is the only recorded instance of this man being shot.